

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00  
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 OMB-01 IO-13 /067 W  
-----128498 080927Z /15

O R 080848Z NOV 77  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7461  
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 9441

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: SHUM, PINT, KS  
SUBJECT: REV. KIM KWAN-SUK COMMENTS ON PRISONER RELEASE ISSUE

REF: A) SEOUL 9364

1. REV. KIM KWAN-SUK RETURNED TO KOREA OVER WEEKEND FROM VISIT TO U.S. KIM TOLD EMBOFF THAT HE WAS ENCOURAGED BY PROGRESS MADE ON PRISONER ISSUE DURING HIS ABSENCE AND THAT HE THOUGHT ROKG DESIRE TO MAKE HEADWAY WAS GENUINE.
2. KIM GENERALLY CONFIRMED CHUNG IL-HYUNG'S BACKGROUND ON VIEWS OF DISSIDENT GROUP REPORTED REFTEL. KIM ADDED THAT KCIA HAD ORIGINALLY CONTACTED HIM FOR A RENEWAL OF KCIA-KNCC DIALOGUE, BUT THAT HE SUGGESTED DIALOGUE INCLUDE BROAD REPRESENTATION OF MAJOR DISSIDENT CURRENTS. REV. KIM SAID THAT, SINCE PREVIOUS KNCC EFFORTS ON PRISONER QUESTION HAD FAILED, HE WAS RELUCTANT TO ONCE AGAIN TAKE FRONTLINE PLACE IN SIMPLE REPLAY OF PREVIOUS TACTICS. KIM SAID REV. PAK HYONG-KYU IS REPRESENTING HIS POINT OF VIEW IN NEGOTIATIONS ALTHOUGH REV. KIM DID PARTICIPATE IN MEETINGS OF GROUP UNTIL HIS DEPARTURE FOR THE U.S.
3. REV. KIM NOTED THAT CURRENT EFFORT IS CENTERED ON MYONG-CONFIDENTIAL

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DONG, EM-9 AND EM-4 PRISONERS, BUT ADDED THAT THIS DOES NOT MEAN DISSIDENTS HAVE ABANDONED OTHER POLITICAL PRISONERS. HE SAID BISHOP CHI HAD ARGUED STRONGLY THAT POET KIM CHI-HA BE INCLUDED AS A PRIORITY TARGET AND OTHERS HAD PRESSED FOR INCLUSION OF THE PRP PRISONERS. NEVERTHELESS, GROUP CONSENSUS WAS TO GO FORWARD WITH MYONGDONG, EM-9 AND EM-4 PRISONERS NOW AND SAVE REAL PRESSURE ON OTHER PRISONERS FOR LATER.

4. REV. KIM DID NOT THINK RUMORS OF DATES OF RELEASE OF PRISONERS WHICH ARE CIRCULATING ABOUT COUNTRY WERE SIGNIFICANT. HE SAID IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT PRISONERS COULD BE RELEASED ANY DAY, BUT MORE PROBABLY RELEASE WOULD COME AFTER INTERACTION BETWEEN PRISONERS AND ROKG, BETWEEN PRISONERS AND DISSIDENT SPOKESMEN, AND BETWEEN ROKG AND DISSIDENT GROUP. THIS PROCESS MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME. KIM THOUGHT DISSIDENT GROUP WOULD PERSEVERE WITH DIALOGUE WVEN THOUGH NO RELEASES MATERIALIZED BEFORE YEAR END.

5. REV. KIM ECHOED VIEW OF CHUNG IL-HYUNG (REFTEL) THAT KIM TAE CHUNG'S PREFERENCES ON THE TIMING OF HIS RELEASE VIS-A-VIS THE RELEASE OF OTHER PRISONERS WERE NO (RPT NO) OBSTACLE TO DISSIDENT GROUP'S SCENARIO. GROUP INSISTED THAT KIMTAE-CHUNG SHOULD NOT LANGUISH IN JAIL AT WHIM OF ROKG WHILE OTHER PRISONERS WERE RELEASED. IF KIM TAE-CHUNG VOLUNTARILY PREFERS TO BE THE LAST EM PRISONER RELEASED, HE PROBABLY CAN BE ACCOMODATED.

6. A U.S. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE AGENCY IN KOREA REPORTS RECEIVING INDICATIONS ROKG CONSIDERS SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF ISSUE VIRTUALLY ACHIEVED.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, KS, (SHAM-SUK, KIM)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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